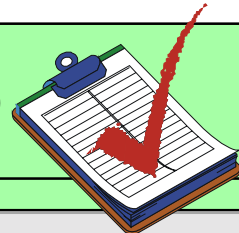


CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

Feb. 28, 2003

NEWS BRIEFS

BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE

The 2003 Bowl for Kids' Sake campaign to benefit Big Brothers-Big Sisters is underway. Last year CHS had 10 teams and raised over \$3000. Let's see if we can

top that this year. Come out, bowl, have some fun and make a difference in a child's life

through Big Brothers-Big Sisters. Our bowl date is Wednesday, March 12th, at 11 a.m. If you can't make it out to bowl yourself, find someone who can and be a sponsor. Contact Tishisha Rawlins at 564-6930 for sponsor sheets.



TIP OF THE WEEK

Your bathroom medicine cabinet is the worst place in the house to store medications. They deteriorate more rapidly in such warm, damp places. Try to find a cool, dry place in a closet or cabinet outside the bathroom. Keep **all** medicine out of the reach of children. Store medicines in their original containers, and if you must remove some pills, label them. Regularly check expiration dates of medicine and dispose of old medicines by flushing them down the toilet.

Ice Storm Prompts Outpouring Of Help From Health Services Staffers

While the recent winter ice storm across the state caused many problems for Kentuckians, it also brought out the best in people. That's especially true for CHS employees, many of whom made special efforts to get to work, help their colleagues and made sure their neighbors survived the cold. Here are just some of the examples of the good work carried out by CHS staff:

Lynda Jeffries in Medicaid's KCHIP Branch was a good neighbor, even with her home's power out. She took a hot meal to her elderly neighbors every evening after work. Lynda and friends also found them a kerosene heater to keep warm.

Jimmie Estill, who works in Information Systems in Medicaid, worked 12-hour shifts in Lexington to help clean up as part of his duties with the

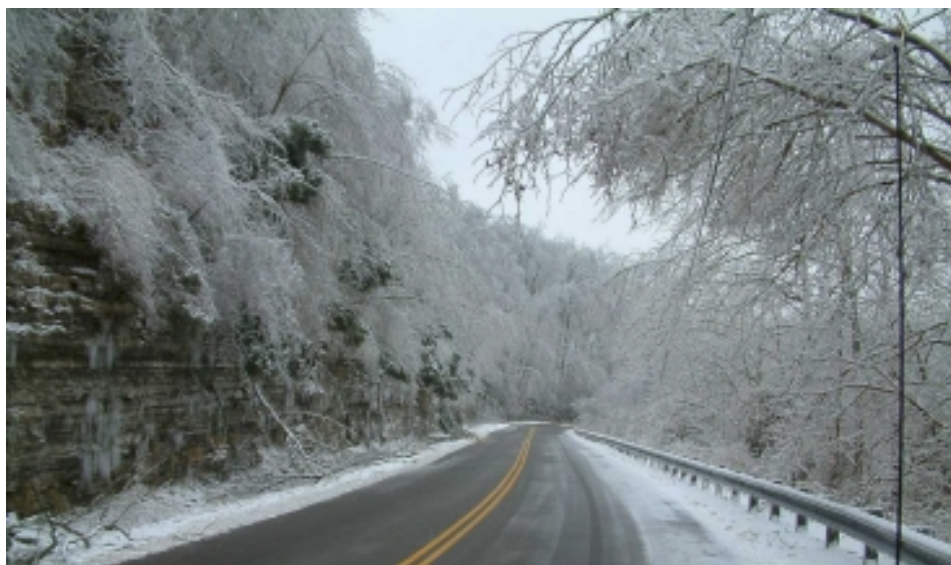
National Guard.

Employees in the Special Investigations Division on the Office of Inspector General pitched in with financial contributions to help out fellow workers who lost food and needed heat. Program Investigative Officer Ginger Swartz headed the effort.

Vera Frazier of Long Term Care in Medicaid opened up her home to family, friends, and neighbors to provide food and shelter. Vera checked with employees in her division and invited them to her house if they wanted a warm place to stay.

Willa Thomas of the Office of Aging Services volunteered at the emergency shelter in Versailles to help serve meals. She's a registered

(Continued on page 2)



A Woodford County road during the February ice storm. Woodford was among the harder hit counties. (photo courtesy Bryon Thompson)

"...promoting and safeguarding the health and wellness of all Kentuckians."

CHS Staff Volunteers To Help During Storm

dietician.

Jesse Williams of Medicaid, got to work despite the poor weather like many CHS staffers. He couldn't get his car out on the street after the ice storm, so he walked to work through the ice and snow from downtown Frankfort.

Staff in the Division of Public Health Protection and Safety also responded to the ice storm and flooding. The division worked with the state Emergency Operation Center, aided local health departments with well-water disinfection kits, and provided information on food safety during power outages to local departments and the media.

Local health departments also did their usual good job helping citizens who faced crisis situations.

Woodford County's Health Department was without power Feb. 16-19 so it had to move out to keep helping people. The department helped care for people 24 hours a day at a local shelter. This included triaging patients

with medical needs, arranging for oxygen delivery and transportation for elderly patients, and helping new moms with formula needs for infants.

The Woodford County staff also checked food supplies at commercial establishments to make sure it was safe and offered advice to citizens about food safety.

"We just did what we had to do to keep everyone in Woodford County healthy and safe," said department director Deborah Acker.

FIVCO District Health Department in Eastern Kentucky informed citizens about food safety, provided free packets to sanitize well water and were providing free well tests for flood victims.

The WEDCO District Health Department also provided information on food and water safety, checked on emergency shelters and home-health patients and made sure the appropriate public health messages were getting out through the Cynthiana radio station.

HIPAA HOOPS



HIPAA is an acronym used to reference the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

Test your HIPAA knowledge...

Protected health information can be defined as information that relates to an individual's health, health care treatment, or payment for health care and that identifies the individual.

A general "rule of thumb" of when health information loses its HIPAA protections and may be used or disclosed freely is when it cannot be used to identify the person(s). To be considered as non-identifying, the information **cannot contain** the following identifiers:

1. Name
2. All address information
3. E-mail addresses
4. Dates (except year)
5. Social Security Information
6. Medical record numbers
7. Health plan beneficiary numbers
8. Account numbers
9. Certificate numbers
10. License numbers
11. Vehicle identifiers
12. Facial photographs
13. Telephone numbers
14. Device identifiers
15. URLs
16. IP addresses
17. Biometric identifiers
18. The geographic unit formed by combining all zip codes with the same three initial digits containing more than 20,000 people and the initial three digits of all geographic unit with fewer than 20,000 people is changed to 000.
19. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code.

Red Cross Blood Drive Set For March 11-12

The American Red Cross is conducting a blood drive at the Human Resources Building in Frankfort March 11-12, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The blood drive will be held from the mobile bus parked in front of the building.

A Red Cross volunteer will be

scheduling appointments on March 7 and March 11, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the first floor lobby area. The goal is 62 units. Please review the policy regarding employee leave if you plan to donate at <http://chsnet/employees/procedures/documents/Blood%20Donation030201.doc>



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